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Rural District Council of Dartford

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ANNUAL REPORT

: . FOR THE YEAR 1946 : .

M. A. G. WARD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Rural District Council of Dartford.

EIGHTH Forty-Seventh Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Forty-Seventh Annual Report, in conjunction with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Dartford Rural District.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. A. G. WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (whole time)—M. A. G. WARD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (whole time) :—F. SUTCH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors (whole time) :—

(from July, 1946)	F. BURGIN, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
(from October, 1946)	J. MARTINDALE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :—D. C. A. BENNIE. Junior Clerk—C. BENNETT (from December, 1946)

Health Visitors (whole time) :—Miss D. M. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.S.I. ; Miss M. E. WALLING, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.S.I. ; Miss A. J. LEACH, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.S.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34,113
Population (Census 1931) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31,253
Resident population .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34,700
No. of inhabited houses (approx.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,862
Rateable Value .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£253,020
Sum represented by penny rate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1,044 8s. 6d.

	Total.	M.	F.				
Live Births	{ Legitimate	683	350	333	{ Birth rate of 1,000 of		
	{ Illegitimate	38	20	18	{ the estimated resident		
					{ Population .....	.....	21.2
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	13	6	7	{ Rate per 1,000 total		
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	{ Live and still Births .....	.....	17.7
		—	—				
Deaths	.....	353	184	169	{ Death rate per 1,000 of		
					{ the estimated resident		
					{ population .....	.....	10.38

General death rate for England and Wales, 11.5.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)	{ From puerperal sepsis :	—
	{ From other puerperal	
	{ causes	—

Maternal.

Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.72
Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46.85
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.3
General death rate of infants under one year of age for England and Wales .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory facilities :—

During the year the following positive specimens were received from the County Laboratory in respect of this District :—

Swabs .....	.....	.....	.....	6
Sputa .....	.....	.....	.....	15
Others .....	.....	.....	.....	1

Ambulance facilities :—Remain the same as in previous years. The service is adequate.

Nursing in the Home :—There is nothing to note under this heading.

Hospitals :—There is nothing further to note under this heading.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Negotiations were commenced at the end of the year for four additional Infant Welfare Centres to be opened at Crockenhill, Fawkham, Hartley and Upper Wilmington.

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres during 1946 showed a slight increase over those for 1945 :—

Clinic.	No. of Clinics held.	Average Attendances.
Ash	22	8
Bean	23	8
Darenth	23	20
Farningham	21	41
Hextable	23	59
Horton Kirby	23	41
Kingsdown	22	30
Longfield	23	37
Southfleet	23	20
Stone	45	25
Swanley	23	57
Wilmington	24	49

Ante-Natal Clinics :—

	Total Attendances.
Swanley	251
Stone	219
Southfleet	8
" Riseley "	463
Wilmington	7

During the year 4 expectant mothers were sent to the County Hospital, Dartford, for X-Ray examination.

Admissions to Maternity Ward, County Hospital.

130 expectant mothers were admitted to the County Hospital, Dartford, and 3 expectant mothers admitted to the County Hospital, Farnborough, during 1946, on grounds of unsuitable home or medical conditions.

" Riseley," Maternity Home, Horton Kirby.

208 Admissions to the Home were recorded during the year, 170 of which were residents in the Rural area, 38 from neighbouring districts.

Home Help Service.

Efforts were made during the year to provide a Home Help Service, both part-time and full-time. In spite of several possible applicants for part-time service, no one would commit themselves to be available when required. One full-time Home Help was employed, but it was found that the vast majority of cases were unsuitable for Home Help in view of their restricted home conditions, and insufficient employment has been found for full-time Home Helps.

War Time Nurseries.

The Council have two War Time Nurseries, one at The Lawns, Stone, and one at Fern Cottages, White Oak Hospital, Swanley. The following is a summary of the average monthly attendances at each Nursery.

STONE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Under												
2 years	6	9	5	10	11	11	11	15	15	10	6	4
Over												
2 years	29	23	27	23	25	24	25	21	24	18	20	16
SWANLEY.												
Under												
2 years	10	9	9	6	11	10	19	15	13	9	10	5
Over												
2 years	20	22	25	19	27	23	34	26	25	22	19	15

Institutional Provisions for Mothers or Children.

Health Visitors. Child Life Protection.—Reports received from the Visitors continue satisfactory and there has been no cause for action.

Arrangements for Dental and Orthopaedic Cases.—Dental and Orthopaedic cases are sent for treatment to the County Hospital, Dartford, under arrangements with the Kent County Council.

Appointments are made for pre-school children to attend various Ophthalmic Clinics, arrangements being made with the Kent County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Main Water supplies are by the Metropolitan Water Board and the Mid Kent Water Company. Samples are taken quarterly and submitted to the County Laboratory. These waters are reported to be bacteriologically and chemically of excellent quality and well-fitted for a public supply.

There is a private supply in the Parish of Lullingstone, where the water is pumped from a well in Lullingstone Park to a reservoir at Chalkhurst, and the area supplied by piped supply. This water is sampled at least four times a year and is found satisfactory.

Water mains supply was extended to Dean Bottom, Horton Kirby, to provide four farm cottages with main water supply and dispense with two wells.

9,101 dwelling houses are supplied by water mains.

761 by private supply or wells.

Rivers and Streams.—No action taken during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year main drainage was extended at Kent Power Station, Stone and Swan Paper Mills, Swanley Junction, allowing for provision of wash down closets at these factories and abolition of pail closets. Where water mains have been extended at Wilmington and Southfleet, 24 privy pits have been abolished and wash down closets and sinks installed with cesspool drainage.

W.C's discharging into drainage system	....	....	....	....	7,493
W.C's discharging into cesspools	....	....	....	....	2,064
Pail Closets	....	....	....	....	80
Earth Closets	....	....	....	....	225

Public Cleansing.—A fortnightly refuse collection service was maintained over the whole area until November, when two new refuse vehicles were delivered, allowing a weekly collection service to be organised over the greater part of the rural area. Another new vehicle is on order and when delivered will allow a weekly collection of house refuse over the whole area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. in district.	No. of visits in 1946.	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied.
Bakehouses	14	94	6	6
Dairies	57	356	16	16
Slaughter houses (Licensed) ...	12	67	—	—
Other food-preparing places which are as such, subject to inspection	13	325	1	1
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses ...	—	—	—	—
Houses let in lodgings ...	—	—	—	—
Factories	38	182	11	9
Workshops	7	28	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	—	—	—	—

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation):—

New cesspool drainage and privies abolished	18	Overcrowding	—
Cesspools rebuilt	13	Keeping of Animals	7
Cesspools repaired	4	Hop-pickers' Camps	1
Sanitary Accommodation :—		Offensive accumulations	15
(i) Insufficient	18	Refuse Receptacles	121
(ii) Defective	56	Tents, Vans and Sheds	21
Drainage :—		Smoke nuisances	4
(i) Reconstructed	56	Yard Paving	6
(ii) Repaired	31	Dampness	16
(iii) Cleansed	66	Roofs	85
Cooking Ranges and Coppers	19	Gutters and rain water pipes	26
Walls and ceilings	102	Floors	45
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	21	Windows and ventilation	1
Verminous Premises	15	Water supplies	46

Total number of visits under Public Health Act, 1936 4,498

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year 6,864

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

(a)	Number of Council Houses found to be infested	4
	Disinfected	4
(b)	Number of private houses found to be infested	9
	Disinfected	9

Method employed for freeing infested houses is by stripping wall paper, all walls, skirtings, mouldings, frames, etc., are then sprayed with Zaldecide.

Any clothing found to be verminous is sent to Bow Arrow Hospital and put through steam disinfecter.

All the work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

Follow-up visits are made and instructions given to tenants regarding home management to prevent re-infestation.

SCHOOLS.

All schools are provided with main water supply and only in the outlying parishes the drainage is by cesspool or pits.

No serious outbreak occurred during the year in regard to infectious diseases.

HOUSING.

During the year inspections were made under the Public Health Act, 1936, and Housing Act, 1936. The following being a summary of Notices served and complied with under these Acts :—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936	426 Informal Notices served. 402 Complied with.
HOUSING ACT, 1936	84 Informal Notices served. 58 Complied with. 26 Works in progress. 7 Properties demolished by arrangements with owners. 7 Properties still occupied where demolition orders have been served.
	280 Houses Surveyed and Recorded.

Total number of inspections made :—

Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	4,498
Housing Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	1,288
Miscellaneous inspections	.....	.....	.....	1,078
(Factories, workshops, dairies, slaughterhouses, food inspections disinfections, disinfestations)				

Total	<u>.....</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>6,864</u>
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RODENT CONTROL.

The destruction of rats and mice was placed on a better foundation during the year. Under the guidance of the Infestation branch of the Ministry of Food a survey of the Dartford Rural Area was commenced in July, 1946. Satisfactory progress was maintained to 31st December, 1946.

The sewers throughout the district were tested in September, and a secondary treatment completed in December. The sewers were found to be slightly infested at Eynsford, Farningham, Swanley Junction, Wilmington and Stone. The Council's sewer-men have been instructed in the approved method of pre-baiting and poisoning, and it is hoped to clear the sewers entirely.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:—

		Poison bait taken.	Estimated kill.
Dartford Rural District Sewers	256 Manholes treated	17	42
Darenth Valley Main Sewer	12 Manholes treated	—	—
Stone Outfall Works	—	3	5
Business Premises (52)	—	60	150
Private Dwellings (239)	—	947	2,992
Farms treated by Kent War Agricultural Committee (4)	—	—	—
Totals		1,027	3,189

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.— The following are the graded Milk Producers in the District:—

E. E. Taylor	Kingsdown	Tuberculin Tested
W. Alexander	Home Farm, Eysford	„ „
Houlding Bros.	Speedgate, Fawkham	„ „
J. & B. Martin	Pinden End Farm, Pinden	„ „
W. C. R. Stoneham	Pettings Court Farm, Ash	„ „
M. T. Fulford	North Ash Farm	Accredited.
R. Tremlett	Wilmington Hall Farm	„
J. B. Pallent	Meadowcroft, Green St. Green	„

Inspections are made of all dairies and cowsheds. Samples of milk are taken regularly in accordance with instructions received from the County Medical Officer. Other samples are taken as the necessity arises.

Meat and Other Foods.

No stalls exist in the Dartford Rural Area. All vehicles used as shops are stopped and meat and fish examined. Routine visits are made to all butchers' shops and food preparing places.

The following carcases were examined during the year :—

Cows	.....	13
Pigs	.....	57
Sheep	.....	79

The following items were surrendered as unfit for food and destroyed :—

- 2 Cows' livers affected with tuberculosis, weighing 32 lbs.
- 1 Ox liver affected with chirrhosis, weighing 14 lbs.
- 1 Ox liver affected with abscess, weighing 16 lbs.
- 4 Sheep's plucks affected with strongulus refescens, weighing 14 lbs.

The following foodstuffs were collected from shops and surrendered as unfit for human food :—

4 cwt. 6 lbs. frozen beef.	2 cwt. smoked haddock.
46 lbs. English beef.	5 stone roker.
1 cwt. 89 lbs. frozen mutton.	6 stone kippers.
20 lbs. imported liver.	14 lbs. bream.
1 cwt. 72 lbs. imported bacon.	3 boxes oranges.
76 lbs. 5 ozs. cheese.	2 cwt. potatoes.
22½ dozen Danish eggs.	7 cwt. 2 lbs. dried milk.
126 tins evaporated milk.	9 tins full cream milk.
42½ lbs. butter.	40 lbs. dates.
8¾ lbs. tea.	49 lbs. ice cream powder.
12 x 2 lb. loaves of bread.	7 lbs. pearl barley.
2 lbs. semolina.	8 packets scone meal.
14 packets pudding mixture.	91 packets cake flour.
32 x 12 oz. packets Yorkshire Pudding mixture.	64 x ¼ lb. packets Cocoa.
7 x ½ lb. tins chocolate.	8 packets chocolate powder.
Flavoured drink	6 x 1 lb. packets salt.
8 tins peas.	9 jars piccalilli pickle.
7 tins salmon.	15 tins baked beans.
1 x 6 lb. tin ox tongue.	5 tins pilchards.
34 x 12 oz. Symington's soups.	4 tins soup.
2 tins plums.	1 tin lambs' tongues.
	1 tin jam.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food:—

Two food poisoning cases reported and samples of foodstuffs submitted to the County Laboratory. All laboratory work is carried out at the County Laboratory. Samples taken and submitted for examination to County Laboratory proved satisfactory.

Nutrition.—Nothing to report under this heading.

Shell Fish and Other Fish.—There are no shell-fish beds in the waterside area of the Rural District. All shell-fish sold in the area comes from Billingsgate Market.

Eleven stone of fish was found to be unsound and destroyed.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES AND HEAD LICE.

During the year 236 persons were treated for Scabies and 8 persons treated for headlice at the Cleansing Station. Two treatments each are normally given, "Ascabiol" being used in both infections. Personal clothes, bedding, blankets, etc., are stoved and follow-up visits made to patients. Every person in an infected house is taken to the Cleansing Station for treatment. There is a decrease of 120 scabies and 16 headlice treatments from last year's figures.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.

Diseases.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	28*	5	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	35*	—	—
Pneumonia	35*	9	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	2	—
Polio-Myelitis	2	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	15*	1	—
Measles	196*	3	—
Scabies	71*	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Totals	388	25	13

* 3 Pneumonia, 5 Scarlet Fever, 1 Whooping Cough, 35, Dysentery, 14 Measles and 3 Scabies cases occurred at Institutions and Hospitals and were either isolated there or sent to Isolation Hospitals outside this area.

It will be noticed that only 5 out of the 28 Scarlet Fever cases were admitted to Hospital.

AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	3	11	6	3	3	—	1	—	28
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Pneumonia	—	2	1	—	—	2	3	1	8	8	6	4	35
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	18	14	35
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Polio-Myelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	8	24	23	22	99	11	2	2	—	1	—	196
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	2	3	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	15
Scabies	2	—	1	—	2	8	11	8	18	17	4	—	71
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	12	27	26	30	126	33	14	34	29	31	19	388

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the following were the numbers of children immunised at the various Clinics :—

Clinic.	Pre-School Children.	School Children.	Total.
Ash	13	3	16
Bean	4	1	5
Darenth	24	2	26
Farningham	25	2	27
Hextable	24	4	28
Horton Kirby	32	11	43
Kingsdown	24	6	30
Longfield	32	12	44
Southfleet	21	8	29
Stone	47	13	60
Swanley	79	17	96
Wilmington	30	4	34
Boys' Homes, Sth Darenth	—	48	48
Total	355	131	486

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

During the year the following were the numbers of children immunised at the various Clinics :—

Clinic	Pre-School Children.	School Children.	Total.
Ash	4	—	4
Bean	3	1	4
Darenth	15	1	16
Farningham	7	—	7
Hextable	24	—	24
Horton Kirby	24	—	24
Kingsdown	16	—	16
Longfield	9	1	10
Southfleet	5	—	5
Stone	30	—	30
Swanley	64	—	64
Wilmington	23	—	23
Total	<u>224</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>227</u>

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—No action taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	CASES.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.				
	Treated.									
	At Home	In Hospital								
2	1	1	2	—	—	—				

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—No cause for action.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	1	1	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	1	—	2	—	—
20—25	3	2	—	1	1	2
25—35	5	3	—	1	1	—
35—45	4	2	—	—	1	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	1	—
55—65	2	—	—	1	1	—
65 and upwards	3	—	—	—	2	—
Totals	20	9	2	6	7	5
								1

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis, 1 to 8. Enquiries are made where notifications have not been made, and Doctors are written to when there have been oversights.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS under Part 1 Factories Act, 1937.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ...	182	9	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	28	1	—
Other premises under the Act ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	210	10	—

2. RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Convenience	Insufficient ... Unsuitable or defective Not separate for sexes	4 4 1	4 4 1	1
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	10	10	1	—

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are 251 shops in the Rural area ; with the exception of one wet fish shop, the shops are provided with properly glazed shop fronts.

The sanitary provisions of the Shops Act are well maintained.

No case of excessive hours worked by juvenile employees has been noted or reported during the year.

There are eleven persons registered as Outworkers, making wearing apparel in their own homes :—conditions are satisfactory.

SALVAGE.

During 1946 progress has been maintained in the collection and disposal of salvage, the following being the figures for the year :—

118 tons of Salvage disposed of amounting to £678 12s. 1d.

430½ tons of kitchen waste collected by local pig and poultry breeders.

145 tons of salvage collected by voluntary bodies.

244 tons of screened ashes removed by brickmakers, they finding all labour and taking the ashes in payment.

